

15 August 2017

David Lawson
fyi-request-6259-a5eac13a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Lawson

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your request dated 22 July 2017, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I respectfully request the provision of copies of all policy documentation that was associated with ACC's service contract for service code SDA30, service description: Orthopaedic Assessment that were associated with this service between 1 June 2014 and 23 December 2014.

Please ensure that a copy of the service contract is included that was applicable through the period requested, and also confirms the number of hours that the SDA30 was allotted for the completion.

Our response

The service item SDA30 – Single Discipline Assessment 30, which has a Medical Fees Processing (MFP) service description of 'Orthopaedic Assessment', was added into MFP from 1 April 2005. This code (along with others) was created because the contracted and regulations codes at that time did not cover all assessments being provided to ACC clients. This also prevented impeding the case owners from doing what they were doing at that time, with the expectation that the new MFP would provide better transparency and consistency over time. So a few non-contracted codes were added to allow business as usual, and included SDA30. It meant this non-contracted service item was used for a range of different purchasing purposes during its time in operation, which either aligned or closely matched its service description.

In 2016, changes were made to the purchasing arrangements for Single Discipline Assessments and from 1 July 2016 it became a service within the Clinical Services contract. The code SDA30 remained active until earlier this year, when it ceased to be active or available for staff to use as at 12 June 2017.

During the period you have asked about, the code SDA30 was a non-contracted service code, as such there was no service contract associated with it, nor was there a requirement the code be used in conjunction with the contracts.

There was no policy documentation or specific contractual guidance around the purchase of these assessments for the dates requested. Internal information was updated for staff at that time to guide case owners and clinical advisors on when and how Medical Case Reviews and Medical Single Discipline Assessments should be purchased and reports reviewed.

It follows that your request for a copy of the applicable service contract and provision of associated policy documentation during the period 1 June 2014 to 23 December 2014 must be refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the documents alleged to contain the information do not exist.

Queries or concerns

If you have any questions about the information provided, ACC will be happy to work with you to answer these. You can contact us at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz or in writing to *Government Engagement and Support, PO Box 242, Wellington 6140*.

You have the right to complain to the Office of the Ombudsman about our response. You can call them on 0800 802 602 between 9am and 5pm on weekdays, or write to *The Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143*.

Yours sincerely

OIA Services, Government Engagement and Support